

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 23 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

The undersigned attorney would like to thank Examiner Payer for the courtesies extended to him during the personal interview on May 17, 2005. At the interview, Claim 1 was discussed. The Examiner indicated that Claim 1, as amended at the interview, did not overcome the Lai reference.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lew. Also, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 11 and 16 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lai. The Examiner alleges that these references anticipate, or render obvious, respectively, the claims.

Claim 1 has been further defined to include a substantially planar carrier slidably disposed in the housing. The carrier has a planar base with extending side walls which define the channel adapted to receive the saw blade. The carrier is positioned in the housing such that the plane of the planar base is in with a line of cut of the saw blade. Thus, the plane of the line of cut is substantially parallel to the plane of the planar base.

The Lew reference, cited by the Examiner, fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention. As was pointed out at the interview, the Lew reference illustrates a carrier which includes a semi-circular blade holder. See Column 2, lines 11 through 19. Thus, Lew fails to disclose or suggest a planar carrier. Also, Lew fails to disclose or suggest the plane of the carrier being in line with the plane of the line of cut of the saw blade so that they are substantially parallel to one another.

Accordingly, Applicants believe Claim 1, as well as Claims 2 through 10, to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

The above remarks equally apply to Claim 11. Accordingly, Claim 11, as well as dependent Claims 12 through 19, are patentably distinct over the Lew reference.

The Lai reference, cited by the Examiner, fails to disclose or suggest Claim 1. Lai illustrates the saw blade line of cut in Figures 3 and 4, in its cutting position, perpendicular to the plane of the carrier. This is unlike Applicants' invention where the plane of the line of cut is parallel to the plane of the carrier. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claim 1 to be patentably distinct over the Lai reference. Likewise, Claims 2 through 10 which depend from Claim 1 are patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

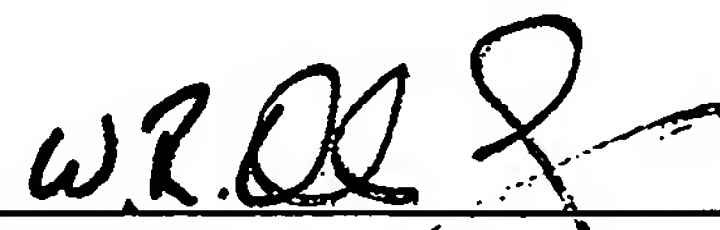
Claim 11 has been amended to point out that the saw blade defines a first plane in a line of cut with the cutting edge. The second plane of the base of the carrier is parallel to the first plane of the blade. As mentioned above, this is unlike the Lai reference. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claim 11 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner. Likewise, Claims 12 through 19, which depend from Claim 11, are patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the case to issue at her earliest possible convenience. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, she should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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